Remarks

Claims 1-39 are pending. Claims 35-39 have been added. Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Support for the new claims can be found in the original claims and the Specification.

The Rejections

Claims 1-34 (including independent claims 1, 17, and 26) were rejected as anticipated pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Stinson (US 6,149,056).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. Stinson does not anticipate the claims. Where does Stinson even mention electronic signature?

Claim 1

Where does Stinson teach receiving from a user an input that indicates user agreement for the user's image data to be the user's electronic signature?

Claim 17

Where does Stinson teach receiving from a user an input that indicates user agreement for the user's electronic signature to comprise user input data?

Claim 26

Where does Stinson teach the ability to ask a machine user for agreement on user image data being the user's electronic signature for a document. Nor does Stinson teach the ability to correlate the user image data (as the user's electronic signature) with the document.

New claims 36 and 37

Applicants' previous remarks can also be made for claim 36 and claim 37. Claim 36 is further directed to a financial check. Claim 37 is further directed to linking obtained user identity data to a document.

The Dependent Claims

Each of the dependent claims depends directly or indirectly from an independent claim. Thus, it is asserted that the dependent claims are allowable on at least the same basis. Furthermore, each of the dependent claims additionally recites specific features and relationships that patentably distinguish the claimed invention over the applied art. Stinson does not teach the features and relationships that are specifically recited in the dependent claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are further allowable due to the recitation of such additional features and relationships.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance.

The undersigned is willing to discuss any aspect of the Application by telephone at the Office's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph E. Jocke Reg. No. 31,029
WALKER & JOCKE
231 South Broadway
Medina, Ohio 44256
(330) 721-0000